

grateful for her tremendous leadership in one other area too: preventing pregnancy-related death. This is a preventable tragedy that affects women and babies of color especially hard.

I have been working with ROBIN KELLY, the Congresswoman from the Chicagoland area, on this issue; and last April, Illinois received a waiver from Medicaid, allowing us to become the first State in the Nation to expand healthcare coverage for new moms on Medicaid from 60 days after pregnancy to a full year, a change I am certain that will save lives.

In the American Rescue Plan, Congress expanded that option to all States for 5 years. We continue to fight to make this change permanent for all new moms on Medicaid. I thank Dr. Ezike for helping to make the case for that change; for her service, courage, and leadership; and for her caring heart at a time when Illinois and America needed her so much.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, 2 weeks ago, Russia initiated the largest land conflict in Europe since World War II. Millions of men, women, and children fled their homes to safety. Countless others have taken up arms in the name of freedom.

President Putin's unprovoked and brutal invasion of Ukraine did not happen overnight. The warning signs were very, very clear. The response from the Biden administration was anything but. The administration had false hope that strongly worded statements would be enough to deter an unprovoked war.

President Biden waited until after Russia invaded Ukraine to level any sanctions at all. And even then, sanctions came in waves, and they are still coming.

President Biden was slow to hit Putin where it hurts. He refused to penalize the Russian energy sector until roughly a week—1 week—after the invasion took place. The President refused to act, and the world now sees the heart-wrenching results.

President Biden has shown weakness on the world stage throughout his 40-plus years in politics—40 years. His foreign policy caves to adversaries, undermines our allies, and devalues the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform.

In his first year of office, he abandoned 20 years of effort in Afghanistan and emboldened Putin to attack his neighbor. As I speak, the White House is reviving Iran's hope of developing a nuclear weapon.

Originally brokered when Joe Biden was Vice President in 2015, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, more commonly known as the JCPOA or the Iran deal, was a deeply flawed agreement aimed at preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. In reality, it did the exact opposite.

Nuclear security can't be achieved with wishful thinking, watered-down

sanctions, or by sending our adversaries plane loads of cash, which we did. Years later, we all know the result. The Iran deal did not work.

President Biden wants to revive this disastrous deal, and this time it will be even worse. The Iranians don't even want to negotiate with America and President Biden's administration so we are allowing Russia to join at the negotiating table negotiating for the United States. It doesn't make any sense. Many Americans are likely asking why? The United States cannot trust the Russian Federation in any capacity. If working with and propping up Russia isn't bad enough, Iran is poised to receive billions of dollars from frozen assets in this new agreement, including funds from renewed oil exports.

Rather than unleashing the power of the American energy industry and allowing Americans to drill, drill, drill on our own soil, the Biden administration would rather do business with Venezuela and plead with Saudi Arabia to turn on the spigots.

The administration is, again, leading from behind, held back by their pledge to their false climate gods. Yes, the climate has changed, and it has been changing for decades, but we can't let the far-left extremist wing push us to buy oil from convicts and criminals just because they would rather hamstring our economy than unleash American energy.

The administration is letting Russia and Iran and China dictate the rules of the game, and they are letting an unelected bureaucrat who was not Senate confirmed, by the name of Rob Malley, conduct these talks through Russia. His now-former colleague resigned. Malley's former colleague resigned in protest over Mr. Malley in conceding to Iran.

The Russian negotiators are bragging about Iran's huge wins in this would-be deal. I have a long list of concerns about how these negotiations are unfolding, but at the top are the limited sanctions the administration appears to be open to in exchange for a short-term pause on the development of Tehran's nuclear program.

Let me be clear. These short-term sanctions are not the solution. They weren't a few years ago, and they are not today. The administration must not allow Tehran to obtain a nuclear weapon. The Iran deal was a bad deal in 2015, and it would be a worse deal today. The Biden administration should immediately—immediately—walk away from the negotiating table before these discussions lead to yet another Biden foreign policy disaster.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The majority leader is recognized.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, last week was an exceedingly productive week for the Senate. We funded the government, passed postal reform, kept our promise to the Ukrainian people, revived VAWA, and unanimously passed anti-lynching legislation. President Biden is going to be busy this week signing a lot of bipartisan bills into law that will impact the lives of millions of Americans, and I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their good work.

Today, we are picking up right where we left off—confirming more of the President's nominees, maintaining our laser focus on lowering costs for American families, and continuing to explore how we can help Ukraine in their war against the evil Mr. Putin.

First, on this last point, earlier today, the Speaker and I announced that President Zelenskyy will deliver a virtual address to Members of the House and Senate this Wednesday, March 16, at 9 a.m. As you know, it is one of the highest honors of any Congress to welcome remarks by foreign heads of state, but it is nearly unheard of in modern times that we hear from a leader fighting for his life, fighting for his country's survival, fighting to preserve the very idea of democracy.

Let me say that again. It is one of the highest honors of any Congress to welcome remarks by a foreign head of state, but it is nearly unheard of—unheard of—in modern times that we hear from a leader fighting for his life, fighting for his country's survival, and fighting to preserve the idea of democracy—something Americans cherish.

As war intensifies in Ukraine, we have all been inspired by the courage of President Zelenskyy and that of the Ukrainian people. President Zelenskyy can rest assured that he will always have friends in Congress ready to listen, to stand in his corner, and we are honored to have him speak to us later this week.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, now on nominations, as we continue exploring ways to help the people of Ukraine, the Senate will also move forward on nominations.

Later today, we are scheduled to vote to proceed on the nomination of Shalanda Young, President Biden's choice to lead the Office of Management and Budget.

For the last year, Ms. Young has already been doing the work leading OMB as Acting Director, and she has proved to be bipartisan, deeply experienced, and knows the budget and appropriation process like the back of her hand. She was an amazing—amazing—budget director for the Appropriations Committee in the House and has been an amazing Acting Director, and she will do great as Director of OMB.

It is time we make her appointment official here in the Senate, and I hope to see Members from both sides of the aisle rally behind her later this week.